

Texans Will Be Soloists For Evangelism - Bible Conference

The roster of musicians for the Evangelism-Bible Conference has been filled with Mississippians and a nationally-known soloist.

The soloist is Martha Branham of Dallas, Tex., a concert and evangelistic singer who will present a sacred vocal concert at the statewide meeting.

Feb. 12-14 are the dates for the Evangelism-Bible Conference which takes place at First Baptist Church,

Meridian. The conference includes Christian music, theological discussions, and inspirational speaking.

Another Texan on the program will be Jeff Ben Ward, soloist at First Baptist Church, Houston.

Dan Hall, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department, and Tom Larimore, Jackson-based music evangelist, will be among the song leaders for the conference.

Instrumentalists for the conference will be Senita Webb, music director at Midway Baptist Church in Meridian, at the piano, and Dot Pray, keyboard specialist for the Mississippi Church Music Department, at the organ.

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Martha Branham

As Baptist Aid Given

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board virtually depleted its disaster relief funds by appropriating more than \$44,000 in January. An additional \$143,000 was allocated from hunger relief funds.

Only \$7,831 is left in the board's general relief funds, which are kept separate from those earmarked for hunger. The \$100,000 set aside last year by the board for use in case of major emergency needs has also been depleted.

The board's policy on hunger fund utilization requires that the money be used in projects that are directly hunger-related. The general relief funds may be used for hunger relief, but are most often used to provide shelter, medicine, blankets and clothing.

Baptist World Alliance

"Channel To Help Fulfill The Commands Of Jesus"

By Robert S. Denny
General Secretary
Baptist World Alliance

People often ask me, "What is the purpose of the Baptist World Alliance?" It is a good question anytime, and it is especially appropriate as we look toward observance of Baptist World Alliance Day on the first Sunday in February.

The answer to the question is this: The objectives of the BWA are the same as those of your own local church. The Alliance is, in fact, an extension of your local church — an extension beyond the sanctuary to the ends of the earth.

Our world family — the baptized believers who comprise the membership of BWA — numbers about 29 million, and we live in 120 countries. Some of these are free countries, others are dominated by atheistic governments

or controlled by state religions. There are some 114,000 churches within the 111 national Baptist conventions and unions affiliated with the Alliance.

Each of these churches seeks to follow the pattern of the New Testament church, though the going is hard in countries where Christianity is a minority religion or Baptists are a minority group.

Like in your own church, the first objective of the Baptist World Alliance is to win people to Christ. The Bible says that God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. Baptists of many countries and under a variety of circumstances have made evangelism, winning people to Jesus, our first priority.

The second purpose of the BWA is to encourage Bible study. God can reveal himself to human beings without the Bible but most people are influenced to follow Jesus by the teachings laid down in the Scriptures. Little children can be taught the basic principles of Christianity such as "God is love" and "Suffer little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God" and on and on. At the other extremity, no one outgrows his need for the Bible and the longer ones studies it the more he holds it in awe. So the study of the Bible before and after conversion is essential to extending the Christian faith and nurturing the believer.

The third purpose of the Alliance is care for each other. Jesus said "I was sick and you visited me, I was hungry and you fed me. Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it unto me."

Later comes rehabilitation, building churches and homes. But first is care for the individual.

The BWA Relief Department stays in constant communication with other relief agencies and with our fellow believers in all the world so that if a crisis occurs the department is knowledgeable about the best way to supply the

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Hotline Returns

ATLANTA — The Home Mission Board has again turned to the telephone, Jan. 2 - March 31, to communicate missions needs and stimulate concern over the HOTLINE.

More than 1,900 callers enjoyed a mix of news, features and prayer requests on the call-in newswire during 1978, an increase of 30 percent over the previous year.

The messages, changed every Friday morning, have been tape recorded for playback to missions groups, worship services and prayer meetings. The HOTLINE number is (404) 875-7701.

The only cost is the price of a long-distance phone call.

Noble Takes Ohio Post

Eli F. (Skip) Noble, Jr., Associate BSU Director at the University of Southern Mississippi since August,

1971, has resigned, effective February 2 to accept the position of Southwest Regional Baptist Student Director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

About twenty-five schools of various types are in the region which includes the cities of Dayton and Cincinnati.

Mrs. Noble is the former Kay Robertson of Greenwood.

Sheen, Carter Highlight National Prayer Breakfast

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — More than 3,000 persons attending the annual National Prayer Breakfast heard Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen declare that Americans need to confess both personal and corporate sin.

Noting that "we Americans do not

like to hear about sin," the famed Catholic preacher drew laughter when he said that whereas Catholics have long taught the immaculate conception of Mary, "now all Americans believe they are immaculately conceived."

Sheen paid tribute to Abraham Lin-

coln, saying that he was the only American president to acknowledge publicly the corporate sins of the nation.

He identified America's chief sin as that of being more concerned about nuclear arms than about life.

The archbishop, clearly a hit with the crowd, which stood to applaud when he finished his sermon with a dramatic, arms-uplifted gesture, began his remarks by addressing the audience as "my fellow sinners." Turning to President and Mrs. Carter, he said he was including them as well.

Carter paid tribute to Sheen during his remarks. Recalling having followed the Catholic prelate's television program years ago, he said, "it even boosts my spirits when he refers to me as 'fellow sinner.'"

President Carter appealed for continued prayers for peace in the Middle East and elsewhere and recalled that the arduous 13-day negotiations at Camp David last fall were marked by sincere prayer on the part of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and himself.

"But peace is still elusive," the president declared. He asked the audience, comprised largely of influential politicians, diplomats, and church leaders, to use their influence for the cause of peace.

In his remarks, Carter reaffirmed his commitment to separation of

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The Baptist Record

Executive Board Approves Revised WMU Base Design

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Updates on Southern Baptist missions from the two mission boards highlighted the Executive Board meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, in mid-January. Also punctuating the week-long meeting was the approval of a revised WMU Base Design, approval of organizational plans for 1980-81, and adoption of a statement on women in church-related vocations.

Baker James Cauthen, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, and William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, brought a recap of the past year in Southern Baptist missions along with projections for the coming year.

Cauthen, a former missionary to China, addressed the executives on the recently opened U.S./China diplomatic relations. Cauthen said that through China's history she was destined to become a great nation. He said the open door to tourism may cause suppression of Christianity in the Communist country to come to the forefront. "Maybe churches will again be opened," he said.

Winston Crawley, director of the Board's overseas division, revealed that missionary appointments in 1978 exceeded those in 1977 by 25 percent, with a total of 2,906 missionaries plus more than 2,800 volunteers in 94 countries.

R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division said that in a re-

cent survey, 87 percent of churches questioned said they had a remarkable increase in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions because of the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis.

Parks said that while there was a marked increase in giving to foreign missions, "we can't go on financing the entire mission enterprise by barely meeting the rate of inflation. There are going to be financial problems in the future if we really don't get bold in our giving," he challenged.

Earlier in the week William Tanner revealed a goal of having 50,000 Southern Baptist churches by the year 2000.

Tanner said because of conviction that God is in charge Christians can possess a "holistic optimism" about the world and the missions enterprise.

The WMU Base Design, a document designating the organizational structure and responsibilities of Woman's Missionary Union work in the church, was approved for implementation in 1981-84. Also approved was a 416-page document, the WMU Dated Plan, which specifies organization plans for the 1980-81 year.

In response to the specific issue of women in church-related vocations Woman's Missionary Union adopted an official statement, recognizing that the topic deals with one of the many groups within WMU constituency.

The document included a section of eleven policy commitments referring to Bible study, theology and doctrine,

audience, dialogue, jobs, role models, purpose, heritage, self-image, missions, and the denomination. Also included was a study of WMU publications. This was to insure that all concepts and graphics represent women and girls in roles consistent with the

policies confirmed in the official response.

In administrative business, the WMU Board approved new policies in the following areas: "flexitime" schedule for employees; personnel re-

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State Girl Appointed To Acteens Panel

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Susan K. Washburn, daughter of the William N. Washburns of Blue Mountain, has been selected as one of six members of the third Acteens National Advisory Panel. The panel is sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. The announcement was made by Beverly Sutton, national Acteens consultant, during the WMU Executive Board meeting last week.

Susan is a 16-year-old high school junior. A member of Lowrey Memorial Church, Tippah-Benton Association, she has been a member of Acteens for five years. She has attained the level of Queen Regent in Service in Studia, the individual achievement plan for Acteens.

At her church, Susan sings in the youth choir and is editor of the Acteens' newsletter. Her school activities include 4-H, Future Business Leaders of America, Beta Club, Spanish Club, and statistician for Blue Mountain High School basketball teams.

Panelists were selected for their scholastic achievement, school as well as church involvement, and accomplishments in Studia. In addition to their applications and written testimonies, the candidates had to be recommended by both their pastor and Acteens leader.

Duties will include writing for Acteens (the WMU missions monthly magazine for girls in grades 7-12). They will be featured in the March 1979 issue. Panelists may also appear at



Susan Washburn

state and associational WMU-related meetings. They will serve as pages at the national WMU Annual Meeting, June 10-11, 1979, in Houston, Tex.

Susan is the second girl from Mississippi to receive this honor. The first was Talitha Edwards from Grenada in 1977 — the first year for the panel.

Jacksonian Is Med Receptor For Bangalore

RICHMOND, Va. — R. Earl Bowie has been named medical receptor for the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, India, by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

A Jackson, Miss., native, Bowie is presently a student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He attends First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Bowie will go to India in March to provide three months of medical assistance at the Bangalore hospital. The medical receptorship program allows medical and dental students who have completed their third year of medical school to get a first-hand look at medical missions while fulfilling an elective requirement.

Bowie received the bachelor of arts degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. After graduation, he served as a summer missionary in Hawaii in 1975 sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Student Union. He has also worked as a grounds maintenance worker in Bay St. Louis, Miss., and as a criminal lab technician in Montgomery, Ala.

Missionaries Stay In Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Henry E. Turlington and his family missionary journeyman Michael Joe Sowder remain in Tehran despite anti-American protests.

In a telephone report Jan. 19, Turlington said there would probably be more anti-American protests, but the missionaries have not been personally approached. "Many Iranians (Muslims and Christians) are very friendly to us," he said.

Church-State Issues Noted

James Wood, right, enumerates critical issues in church-state relations for an assembly of black and white participants in a Human Relations Seminar at William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

The seminar was one of four sponsored last week by the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, headed by Clark Hensley, pictured far left and by the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Dick Brogan, president.

The others were held at the other three Mississippi Baptist colleges: Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, and Clarke College.

Wood, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., was joined in the seminars by Charles E. Boddie, president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn.

The four most critical issues in church-state relations today, according to Wood, are lobby disclosure legisla-

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"O Wad Some Power . . ."

O wad some Power the gifle gie us
To see ourselves as others see us!

—Robert Burns

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. (BP) — Joseph O'Donnell, a priest from Newman, Ga., and a regional worker for the Glenmary Home Missioners, described Southern Baptists from a Catholic perspective to 130 priests and 40 nuns at the clergy conference of the Belleville Diocese.

(1) "They know how to use the public media, with Billy Graham's television ministry one of the best examples.

(2) "Southern Baptists are more open to dialogue with us than any of the other Baptist bodies in America.

(3) "They are not 'holy-rollers.' Often, their worship is more formal than some of our services. And their music — oh, it's beautiful, beautiful. You should see what they do with their choirs and congregational singing, and the money they spend on it.

(4) "Southern Baptists are the largest, wealthiest, best organized, and most mission-minded of any of the Baptist bodies. One Sunday last year, they raised \$35 million for foreign missions. The best we did on any one Sunday was \$5 million.

(5) "They baptize by immersion, and their baptism would be acceptable by us.

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Tuition Increase

Carey Has Enrollment Jump At Mid-Term, Trustees Told

By Marjorie Rowden

William Carey College has again defied all predictions and registered an increase in enrollment at mid-term... a fact made all the more spectacular by a jump of \$4.00 per semester hour's tuition.

This news, along with the formal announcement of the urgent need to complete the last \$200,000 on the current \$2 Million Development Campaign, the reaffirmation of academic

accreditation for another ten years, the gift of Tatum land for a boulevard on the south campus, and the projected awarding of three honorary degrees in May to outstanding Baptist convention leaders, provided an air of celebration at the quarterly meeting of the Carey College Board of Trustees on Jan. 18.

The enthusiasm and challenge of the future outweighed, but did not eclipse, the fact that Carey College continues the struggle that all colleges, both pri-

vate and state, face in light of continued inflationary costs, decrease in prospective student pools, and dramatic shifts in academic and professional interest-shifts.

"We owe the greatest compliment of all," commented President J. Ralph Noonkester, "to our current student body and its leadership for joining the administration and trustees in 'expecting great things from God and attempting great things for God.' This approach to life on today's college campus takes faith and a measure of patience, but is the stuff that William Carey College has been built upon since its inception."

Operation Turn-Around for the Carey campus was finalized as a projected reality as the Tatum family of Hattiesburg gave to the college 100 feet of land on the southern edge of the campus for construction of a boulevard. According to John D. Thomas, chairman of the trustee committee involved, "The new road will re-direct traffic around the campus and will provide an appropriate change in the official 'front' of the college. This is in keeping with the increased use of the access road leading to Highway 49."

The three honorary degrees, voted on by the trustees at the meeting, include: Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board; Harriet L. Mather, retired director of the Mather School of Nursing, the forerunner of the Carey School of Nursing at Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans; and Beryl Red, outstanding church music composer and director.

"Cauthen has also accepted our invitation to be commencement speaker on May 5," commented Noonkester.

Paul McMullan was commended by action of the trustees for his unusual service as chairman, for the second time, of a Carey fundraising effort. The current \$2 Million Development Campaign has reached near completion at this point.

The Carey College Development Board members joined the trustees for a luncheon meeting following the trustee meeting. Bill Wicht of Hattiesburg, a guest, was honored for having presented a rose garden to the college.

Home Board Names Two

ATLANTA (BP) — Two Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff members were named during the January executive committee meetings of the board of directors.

James Hamblen of Columbia, Md., was named associate director of the department of metropolitan missions and Gary Leazer of Fort Worth, Texas, was named assistant director of the department of interfaith witness.

Directors also appointed four missionaries, five missionary associates, one US-2 missionary and approved 33 pastors to receive financial aid for new mission congregations.

In addition, by action of the directors, Warren Rust, who has served on the staff of the board in the metropolitan missions department, was moved to national consultant status. Rust, with the board since 1971, has been plagued by health problems and will continue to work from his home in Arizona.

Since 1976, Hamblen has served as field consultant in metropolitan missions with national responsibilities from his base in Maryland. From 1973 to 1976, he was a resource consultant in new town planning for the board and the Maryland Baptist Convention. He is a Texas native, a graduate of the University of Texas and holds a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Leazer, who will join the staff Feb. 1, will work with interfaith witness specializing in American Christianity with particular reference to sectarian movements. An Iowa native, and graduate of Mississippi College, he holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern.

Sunday School

1979

Teaching, Growth Conferences

7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

January 25—Carriere, First
January 29—Natchez, First
January 30—Yazoo City, First
February 1—Greenville, First
February 5—Canton, First

For: Pastors; Education and Staff Age Group Directors; All Sunday School Leadership.

Purpose: Program Agenda will offer help in (1) How to Teach the Bible (Age Group and General Officers) (2) How to Reach Prospects (Enlarge, Grow) for the Church and the Sunday School.

Unification Solicitation Compromise

LAS VEGAS (RNS) — Las Vegas City Commissioners have reached an interim agreement with the Unification Church that permits its members to solicit for funds in public under certain restrictions.

Under the new regulations, "Moonies" will not proselytize within nine feet of any doorway or street corner unless they are given permission from the owner. Only one will be permitted to solicit donations in a particular location at any one time, and the total number soliciting at any given time will not exceed 12.

The Unification Church will give the city of Las Vegas a detailed report of the total amount of money raised in the city during the period of the agreement, along with a statement of where the money is going. Each "Moonie" must clearly display an identification badge when engaging in soliciting.

Seven North Central States Launch Year of Evangelism

By Dan Martin

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP) — Southern Baptists in the North Central states have kicked off what they are calling the "largest evangelistic effort ever north of the Ohio River."

They launched a "Year of Evangelism" during the annual rally of the North Central States Mission Thrust. More than 4,000 persons braved snow and near-zero temperatures to attend workshops and inspirational sessions at Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Columbus.

"The centerpiece of the Year of Evangelism will be simultaneous revivals held in the churches across the



100 Foot Hotdog On The Gulf Coast

The youth of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport were involved in making the longest hotdog ever assembled on the Gulf Coast: 100 feet long and 3 inches wide. The project was part of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis and over \$150 was donated from those who helped devour the feast. Ingredients: 100 foot long weiners, 75 foot long buns, 52 7-inch buns, one gallon of chili, mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, pickle relish. Danny Cook is the minister of music and youth at Grace Memorial and Jerry Oswald is interim pastor.

Golden Gate Trustees Approve Expansion Plans

MILL VALLEY, Calif (BP) — The executive committee of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees voted approval of the seminary's capital funds/endowment programs, encouraged the administration to expand its branches to key cities in the West, and took steps to ease the housing crunch caused by enrollment increases.

President William M. Pinson Jr. reported on the progress of new projects at the seminary, including family life enrichment programs, the World Mission Center, the Baker James Cauthen Chair of World Missions, and the library.

Blue Mountain Gets Grant From Sears

The Sears-Roebuck Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$10,000 to ten privately supported colleges in Mississippi.

Blue Mountain College is one of the schools sharing the grants which went to more than 1,000 private accredited two- and four-year institutions around the country during 1978-79. Total grants to all institutions during the academic year amounted to \$1.5 million.

The grant to Blue Mountain is unrestricted and may be used as the college deems necessary. James Byers, manager of Sears in New Albany, made the presentation to the college.

"O Wad Some Power ..."

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(6) "They have fantastic skills as 'missioners' and 'evangelizers.' Once they find Christ, Southern Baptists feel compelled to tell others. This can irritate some Catholics, especially in smaller towns. But I say to them, 'Keep it up; stir us up!'"

(7) "The psychology and personality of President Carter cannot be understood outside the psychology of Southern Baptists. His personal witnessing is an example."

(8) "In their opposition to government aid to parochial schools, Baptists are not bigoted or prejudiced. They do this out of deep conviction about the separation of church and state."

(9) "Baptist ministers do not have as much freedom as our priests. Baptists say they are the 'free church,' but we as Catholics have the freedom. This is due to the autonomy of each local Baptist church. Each church employs and dismisses its pastor, and thus have tighter controls on him. As Catholics, our priests have greater freedom since they are responsible to the bishop, not the congregation."

Gulfshore Staff Reunion Planned

Frank Simmons, manager of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, is attempting to locate the names and addresses of former summer staffers at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Simmons reports that Hurricane Camille destroyed practically all of the employee files and records making it difficult to get accurate information on the names and dates of summer staffers that served in the 1960's.

The weekend of March 23-24 has been set aside as the time for the "Gulfshore Staff Reunion." The main emphasis will be a banquet type meal at noon on March 24 and reservations will be necessary.

Help is needed by people who can help supply names and correct addresses for those college students who served as staffers prior to Hurricane Camille. Simmons would welcome any information that parents, friends, or former staffers could provide. Send this information directly to the manager at Gulfshore.

Detailed information about the plans and events for the weekend will be necessary.

Prayer

Breakfast

(Continued from Page 1)

church and state; said Christian churches remain the "last bastion" of racism and segregation; and declared that "one of the great problems of the modern church... is our timidity."

(Hosted by the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee.)

be furnished to the former staffers as addresses become available.

A two-fold purpose exists in having an event such as this: 1) a time of Christian fellowship for those who have served as staffers, plus updating information about various individuals, 2) giving interested people who have not seen this beautiful facility a firsthand chance to be present and tour this facility.

Church-State Issues Noted

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tion, tax exemption of the churches, tuition tax credit legislation, and Internal Revenue Service tax exemption of schools.

The lobby disclosure proposals before the legislature "would require massive monitoring of lobby groups by government of all organized political activity," said Wood. This would include all church groups, he said.

Wood asked the rhetorical questions: "Should tax exemption of religion be conditioned on the absence of involvement of churches in speaking out on public policy?" and "Does the state have the competence and the right to define the nature of the mission of the church in determining eligibility (for tax exemption)?"

"The free unencumbered exercise of religion," said Wood, "is the cornerstone of the church's witness."

WMU Board Approves

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records administration; a variety of training and enrichment opportunities for personnel; a new position of assistant to the Education Division director; an additional holiday for employees; and a faster accrual schedule for employee vacation.

Following reports from mission board officials that project favorable gains in the two offerings now coming in, the following future goals were set: Lottie Moon offering goal for 1979 was set at \$40,500,000 and the 1980 goal at \$45,000,000; Annie Armstrong offering goal for 1980 was set at \$15,500,000 and the 1981 goal at \$17,250,000.

La Venia Neal, treasurer of WMU for 26 years, announced her intention to retire April 30, 1979.

In her address Miss Weatherford charged the Board to ask the Lord "to give us wisdom to do better."

"We must have a first-class commitment to first-class causes," she said.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, WMU, SBC, president, presided during all sessions of the meeting. (WMU)

Seminary

Enrollment

(Continued from Page 1)

showed small enrollment decreases: Golden Gate, down 2.3 percent; Southern, two percent; Southwestern, 0.8 percent. According to ATS figures, the decreases didn't alter Southwestern and Southern's positions as the largest two seminaries in the world. New Orleans and Southeastern are the fourth and fifth largest, after Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Jesus Christ," Haywood said. "The goal is to double the number of churches and missions in the seven states by 1990. We feel that if we double the number of churches and missions, we will triple the number of Southern Baptists. We hope to have more than a million Southern Baptists in this region by that year."

James Smith, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, told participants at the rally that for the "past three years, baptisms have gone down in the area." "Our actions have not been quite as long as our talk," he said.

Smith added that the term "born again" has come to the forefront, but that in the public mass media, it has come to mean almost anything, "including a simple change of mind or opinion."

"I believe we have the opportunity in 1979 to set the record straight... to let people know what the Bible has to say about being born again," he said.

Many of the speakers — including Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Director of Evangelism C. B. Hogue and Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner — called on the pastors and church leaders to "become revived" before attempting to lead churches into revival.

Featured speaker at the rally was country comic Jerry Clower, a Southern Baptist from Yazoo City, Miss.

Clower, clad in a brilliant orange tuxedo and white lizard skin boots, said: "The greatest menace in America is adult people living inconsistent lives before our young people. And among Southern Baptists, the most inconsistent thing is pretending to be racial liberals in front of black friends and all-out bigots among white friends."

"The only way I can tolerate the people with so-called Christian schools — for white Christians only — is that I know that one of these days God is going to bust their hides. I hope I'm there to watch."

Clower said he is a "racial liberal who was born a bigot and couldn't live with what I believed." He said he watched an integration battle in Mississippi which involved 36,000 troops, \$18 million, and the lives of two people. "I told God I wasn't gonna be a bigot no more."

Clower added: "The Lord isn't gonna let me run it, but if he did, I know some white Southern Baptists I'd turn black."

Clower, however, drew the loudest applause when he told the audience that the greatest thing in his life is not being a member of the Grand Ole Opry or selling millions of books and records. "I am a Christian," and the greatest thing in my life is to witness for Jesus Christ," he concluded.

(Dan Martin is news editor of the Home Mission Board.)

Texans Will Be Conference Soloists

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Special music will be brought by a number of Mississippi individuals and groups. Among them will be R. L. and Beth Sigrest, music evangelists from Yazoo City; Suzanne Noble, professor of voice at Clarke College; and the Jack Cochran Family from Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church in Meridian.

The Handbell Choir of Meridian's Calvary Baptist Church, Carl Bridgman, directing, will play for the conference and the Church Choir of First Baptist, Meridian, the host church, will sing special numbers. John Lofton is minister of music. Emma Lois Bosarge is organist and Carolyn Harwell is pianist.

Piano meditations will be presented by Calvin Permenter, concert pianist and music professor at Clarke College. And number of sacred music concerts will be offered by several music evangelists.

A complete program for the Evangelism-Bible Conference will be in the Baptist Record next week.

Children's Music Leadership Clinics Will Take Place February 20, 23

The Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is scheduling five regional clinics, February 20 and 23, to train those working with children and music. This will be for choir teachers, Sunday School, kindergarten, or anyone interested in how to use music in teaching children.

The 12 area clinicians trained by the Church Music Department will be leading these clinics in the following churches:

February 20
6:00 - 9:30 a.m.

- First Church, Grenada**
1. Beverly Mercer — Pre-School
2. Sarah Talley — Younger Children
3. Nedra Carter — Older Children
Highland Church, Meridian
1. Gwen Keys Hitt — Pre-School
2. Farley Earnest — Younger Children
3. Linda Fancher — Older Children
First Church, Brookhaven
1. J. T. Hannaford — Pre-School
2. Susan Beaver — Younger Children
3. Bill Barnes — Older Children

February 23
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

- Calvary Church, Tupelo**
1. Kathy Anderson — Pre-School
2. Farley Earnest — Younger Children
3. Charlotte McElroy — Older Children
Temple Church, Hattiesburg
1. Gwen Keys Hitt — Pre-School

2. Annette Joe — Younger Children
3. Bill Barnes — Older Children
There will be a \$2.00 registration fee per person to be taken at the clinic. Sarah Talley, music specialist in children's music with the Church Music Department, is coordinating these events. She may be contacted for further information at 354-3704.

Young Musicians' Festival Set For May 5

The annual state choral festival for children, grades 4-6, will be held in the Mississippi College Coliseum on Saturday, May 5.

The guest conductor will be Terry Kirkland, composer and writer for *Young Musicians*, and co-editor of the *Young Musicians'* magazine. Kirkland will conduct the *Go Tell Your Neighbor* collection compiled by Bill Leach. Two of his songs are in the collection. Sarah Talley, Church Music De-

partment, is coordinating this event, along with committee chairman, Bill Bacon, First Church, Clinton. Mrs. Talley said, "We are emphasizing the Bold Mission thrust this year, and we feel that this collection of mission anthems will be enjoyable and useable in the local church. If you have not ordered the music, do not delay."

Copies are available at the Baptist Book Store or from Anthem Service. It is a Broadman publication, No. 4526-14.

Staff Changes

Richard Smith has accepted a call to Hillcrest Church in New Albany as minister of music and youth. Smith,



born in New Albany, married Sherry Brown of Miami, Fla. They have three children, Debbie, 15, Wanda, 13 and Scott, 10.

Since 1962, Smith has served churches in Mississippi and Florida in music, education and youth ministries.

He received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from Mississippi College and did further study at the University of Miami.

First, Bay St. Louis has called Bill Denington as part time youth director. Denington is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Gulf Gardens Church, Gulf Coast, has called James Whittington as pastor.

Sharon Church, Gulf Coast, has called George Abrams as pastor.

First Church, Wiggins has called Gene Springfield as minister of education and youth.

Tad Denson, a student at University of Southern Mississippi, has been called by the Woodville Church as youth and music director. During the school term, his service will be part-time, and he will be continuing on a full-time basis during the summer.

Denson grew up in Jackson, where he was a member of Broadmoor Church. He attended Murrah High School and Millsaps. At the University of Southern Mississippi, he is a member of the U.S.M. Singers. He has been active in youth and music work on the church, associational and state levels, leading in retreats, fellowships, and evangelism conferences. He previously was minister of music at Mt. Zion Church, Mt. Zion, Miss.

Alton Fagan is the new pastor of Wanilla Church, Lawrence County. Fagan moved to Wanilla from Fellowship Church, State Line. He, with his wife, Charlene, and children, Cort, Troy, and Chrissie moved into the parsonage in Wanilla in early January. They were honored with an "old time" pounding on their first Sunday as pastor.

Try paying your bills with a smile. If that doesn't work try money. — Henry E. Leabo

The Missions Task Our Adversary

By John Alexander, director, Stewardship Department

Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Jehovah, and Satan standing at his right hand to be his adversary (3:2). In the beginning of his earthly ministry Jesus faced an adversary. He was tempted of the devil (Matt. 4:1). When sowers sow the word it is Satan who comes to take away the word that is sown in them (Mark 4:15).

The tragic deed of Judas toward Jesus is explained by Luke as occurring after Satan entered into Judas (22:3).

Simon Peter explained that Satan had filled the heart of Ananias and Sapphira causing them to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land (Acts 5:3).

Paul was not surprised at the character and works of false apostles for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14).

Paul explained their absence from Thessalonica as having occurred because Satan hindered them (I Thes. 2:18).

As mortals we are no match for Satan. Without the help and power of God he will defeat us every time. If Satan is not opposing what you are doing as a Christian, it is the best evidence in the world that what you are doing isn't worth doing!

A pastor with whom I was working recently in a missions effort remarked, "I've never been engaged in anything in all my ministry that Satan fought harder than he did this campaign. Not a word of criticism came from our people who prayed, studied, worked, and gave. It was evident at every forward step, however, that Satan was working hard to defeat us. He didn't succeed!"

How do we deal with Satan? When Satan desired Simon Peter, Jesus prayed for him. James said, "Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (4:7).

John tells us, "To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (3:8).

Paul tells us not to give place to the devil (Eph. 4:24) but to "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be

able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

Truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, with prayer, perseverance, and supplication form the spiritual equipment needed to be victorious over Satan.

If we are faithful to God, ourselves, and others, we too, can see Satan fall as lightning from heaven.

Serving God effectively does not set one in a place of solitude, but rather on the plains of spiritual battle where the stakes are high. If we are truly serving God, we know in the midst of battle who will be victorious. With this assurance we take courage and fight on. We should and can be good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Today the battle lines are drawn. Who is on the Lord's side?

"Be of good cheer," said Jesus, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

I hope you and your church are doing something that is troubling to Satan. If he is ignoring you it is "prima facie" evidence you need to re-examine your program and activities.

PRISONERS BIBLE CRUSADE P. O. BOX 696 PICAYUNE, MS 39465

Greeting in Jesus. God's blessing on His work grows. 1,833 Bibles were given in Oct.-Dec. Grand Total 42,788. Chaplain Sweat writes from Orlando, FL; 300 young people gave their lives to Jesus in the past few months. Chaplain Sangar writes from Lillington, NC; 300 saved in past few years in his ministry. Three prison inmates wrote in Oct.-Nov., to say they gave their lives to Christ. All glory and praise to His Holy Name. God said that His Word would not return unto Him void, but would accomplish His will. One good church has bought a ton of paper which will print 2,000 KJV New Testaments for the Crusade to send to prison inmates. Will you pray about doing the same? From each worker at the Crusade we thank you each and every one for your love, prayers, and support.

Missionary News

Jerry and Glenda White, missionaries to Korea, are the parents of a son, Thomas Kyle, born Dec. 13. They may be addressed at O Jung Dong 201-5, Taejon, Korea 300. They are natives in Mississippi.

Bruce Raley, son of Harry and Frances Raley, missionaries to Taiwan, married Sandy Dooley Dec. 29 in San Antonio, Tex. Currently in the States on furlough, his parents may be addressed at 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206.

Cynthia L. McGee, missionary to Chile, has completed language study and arrived on the field to begin her first term of service (address: Casilla 3388, Santiago, Chile). She was born in Memphis, Tenn., and grew up in Jackson, Miss. Before she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1977, she was a teacher in Ocean Springs, Miss.

Amanda Tinkle, 71, emeritus missionary who served 35 years in Nigeria, died Jan. 12 in an Arkansas convalescent center at Benton, Ark., following a lengthy illness. Miss Tinkle was a native of Benton and made her home there following retirement from missionary service in 1973.

Alcides Telles Almeida, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, died Jan. 13. He was about 70. Almeida, a pastor, began his work in Brazilian foreign missions in 1955, as corresponding secretary for the convention's foreign board.

Shirley Cothran To Appear At Lucedale Rally

Former Miss America Shirley Cothran will highlight an area wide Christian Rally in Lucedale Jan. 27 and 28.

The rally is planned for First Church, Lucedale. The January 27 service will be at 7 p.m. The January 28 service will be during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Reeta Davidson, a Lucedale Christian recording artist, will sing during both services.

Mrs. Cothran is from Denton, Tex., and was Miss America in 1975. She has traveled extensively to participate in youth conferences and evangelistic crusades.

Johnny Walker, pastor at Lucedale, extends an invitation to everyone to attend.

Handsboro Church has gone over its "Together We Build" victory goal of \$125,000.

At Broadmoor, Jackson

Elder, McCarty Will Lead Five Seminars For Singles

A series of five seminars for singles will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Jan. 28-Feb. 25, on "Total Fulfillment in Daily Living."

Phil McCarty, professor at Mississippi College, will lead all the seminars except one. Jon Elder, executive director of Jackson Youth for Christ, will be the speaker for the first one, Jan. 28, on "Single Parent with Children."

Topics for McCarty's talks will be: Feb. 3 — "Biblical Approach to Life"; Feb. 11 — "Changing Times In Your

To National Baptist Students

Wheeler, Jackson Will Explain Mission Needs



Wheeler
Ed Wheeler of the Home Mission Board and Chris Jackson, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville,



Jackson
Ky., will join Versie Dee Lee, state director of Baptist Student Unions for National Baptists in a speaking tour of Mississippi campuses.

Wheeler will present the work of the

Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists Department of the Home Mission Board and opportunities offered for summer missions involvement.

Jackson, a consultant with the HMB's Special Mission Ministries Department, will explain the need of summer mission work with the department.

Lee will accompany each as they visit the campuses.

Wheeler and Lee will be on the following campuses on the dates specified: Coahoma Jr. College, Feb. 19; Delta State University, Feb. 20; Mississippi Valley State University, Feb. 20; and Mississippi College and Jackson State University, both on Feb. 21.

Jackson and Lee's schedule is as follows: Prentiss Institute Jr. College, and Alcorn State University, on Feb. 22; and Utica Jr. College, Feb. 23.

Floyd Foster, Father Of Pastor, Dies In Jackson

Floyd Earl Foster, Sr., father of Mississippi Pastor James Foster, died Jan. 19 after a lingering illness. He was 82.

Funeral services were Jan. 20 at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Jackson. The pastor, Julius Thompson, was in charge of the services. He was assisted by W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Jackson, and executive secretary emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Fred Tarpley, director of missions for Hinds-Madison Association; and Bradley Pope of Mississippi College.

The elder Foster was a member at

Ridgecrest. He had been on the Missions Committee of First Baptist Church and had helped Tarpley find the location for Ridgecrest. He became a member of the new church and was a deacon all along. Two years ago the church made him a lifetime deacon.

Besides James, the elder Foster is survived by a son, Claude, of Aberdeen and a daughter, Miss Myrtis Foster, of Jackson. His wife preceded him in death in 1974.

In lieu of flowers the family is asking that memorials be made to the Floyd and Mary Foster Family Life Center at Ridgecrest Church, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

James Foster and his wife went to China as missionaries in 1947. They transferred to the Philippines in 1948 and were there until 1977, having spent 30 years on the mission field. He is now pastor of Briel Avenue Baptist Church in Natchez.

New York (RNS) — A study exploring nurture in nine congregations of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) has found that "the fellowship of members with each other" was considered the most important aspect of church life by laypersons who participated. They ranked that above "pastoral care" and "the preaching and teaching of Lutheran doctrine" when asked what they considered the three most important characteristics of a new congregation they might choose.

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First, Belzoni	February 1	First, Brookhaven	February 1
First, Batesville	February 2	First, Clinton	February 2

Led By



Martha Jo Glazner, Editor for BAPTIST YOUTH Baptist Sunday School Board Nashville, TN

Led By



Wanda Pearce Special Youth Worker Arkansas Church Training Department

All Conferences 7:00 p.m.

Materials will be available for purchase.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Pornography And Alcohol . . .

Critical Issues Right Now

The ethics bill that passed the Senate late last week has taken up a good part of the time of the Senate. Commendation is due the men who continued to work until a statement concerning the ethics of public servants was accepted by the Senate. Hopefully such a measure will be passed by the House also, and there will be a means of judging men who serve in public places and of weeding out those who shouldn't serve.

This writer has seen the bill that the Senate passed late last week. It was revised in committee from the one I obtained early in the session. I attended one meeting of Senate Judiciary Committee A and a part of a Senate session and heard enough to know that the sponsors of this bill were interested in having passed a measure that would effectively serve the state in dealing with unethical behavior on the part of its officials and others who serve the public.

Equally Important

Other legislation is yet to be considered by the Legislature that is equally as important as the ethics bill. Three bills on pornography face the Senate. They are Senate Bills 2314, 2315, and 2316. These are now in Senate

Judiciary Committee B for consideration. Companion bills are in the House. They are House Bills 332, 333, and 334. Other pieces of pornography legislation have been introduced in both houses. These were mentioned because they were designed to complement each other."

Both Houses

Legislation concerning alcohol is before both houses. Of particular note are SB 224 by Sen. Sam Wright and HB 227 and 617 by Reps. Malcolm Mabry and Dennis Dollar. These bills would lower the amount of alcohol in the blood stream for one to be considered drunk.

Mississippi has many outstanding distinctions, but its distinctiveness concerning drunk driving is not something to be proud of. This state alone allows motorists to be drunk and still drive legally. These bills mentioned would seek to correct that situation. All would declare a person drunk with 10 per cent or more alcohol in his blood stream. Presently in Mississippi a person can have a blood alcohol content of .15 per cent before being considered intoxicated. That is 50 per cent higher. Some kind of a bill on limiting the blood alcohol content needs to

come out of the Legislature this year.

Then another bill, SB 2027, would make the advertising of alcohol legal in Mississippi. This absolutely makes no sense. Legally, Mississippi is a dry state. It's hard to recognize it as such, but that is the fact. There is no reason that the advertising of alcohol should be allowed. This bill must be stopped in its tracks.

Greater Harm

We don't allow the advertising of cigarettes on TV, and they are not illegal. There seems to be no question but that cigarettes harm the user. How much greater harm is done by the use of alcohol! Advertising is not allowed now in Mississippi because Mississippi is a dry state. Advertising should not be allowed anyway. Let's keep it that way.

All of these bills and others were discussed in the *Baptist Record* of Jan. 11 in an article by J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Commission, and in an editorial.

Our government, state and national, is what we as voters make of it or allow it to become. At this point we have some dedicated, responsible, and morally conscious legislators in Mississippi. We must help them take care

of these moral needs that they see facing the state.

Largest Group

We Baptists are by far the largest religious group in the state. If we don't contact our legislators to let them know of our support for the right kind of legislation, they will have a reason to feel that we don't care what they are doing.

A new climate is beginning to take shape in Mississippi. In not a little degree it is being formed by Baptists in the Legislature who are committed to helping bring about a good moral climate in the state. They are not involved in these efforts because they are Baptists but because of their convictions. There are many of other faiths just as dedicated to right.

Please, let's help them. We have no alternative.

Pastors, the moral consciousness of the members of your church may depend to a very large extent on how much you are able to awaken their thinking. Don't fail them at this point. Pornography and alcohol are genuine concerns of all right-thinking people and are critical issues in Mississippi right now.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

The Little Grey Church In The Wildwood



In the forests of Wilkinson County is the old Hux School, where the last class was taught 42 years ago, in 1937.

Since 1947 the building has been the Hux Baptist Church. Its outer coat of paint almost gone, the small one-room structure looks like a sleepy ghost. But it comes to life two Sunday afternoons a month when maybe half of the 21 members arrive to listen to a sermon.

Since I wrote an article last year about Hux Church, I have kept picking up bits of information about the building, in the time when it was a school.

Martha Cavin of Clinton called and said that her mother Lora Hastings, taught at Hux School in 1913 and 1914. She told me that the 19-year-old Lora, who lived with her Aunt Mae and Uncle Jehu White, walked five miles to school every morning. She taught first, second, and third grades on one side of the room while the principal taught the older grades on the other side, a curtain separating the two sections. On March 26, 1915, Lora married Herschel Cavin and ended her teaching career.

Johnny Mackey remembered that his grandfather, Peter Smith, built the school in the late 1800's. "I don't know which year. He told me a log building was used before this one."

"I knew it was built before 1900," Olivia Stupzman said. "My brother, Gordie Lee White, was born in 1900 and he started to school here."

Mrs. Stupzman of Woodville said she went to school at Hux in the 1920's. It was only a mile from her house. She

recalled that an interdenominational Sunday School was held in the school building when she was growing up. She is a Methodist. "One Sunday a woman came to church in a dress above her knees! My, everybody talked about her!"

Mrs. Stupzman recalls that the school's original roof was a very steep one, but that it was lowered when it had to be replaced. "It's not the same without the steep roof," she said. Johnny Clark remembered bringing buckets of water to the school room from a spring in the woods. "And we picked mayhalls at recess time."

A Baptist church began meeting in the old school house in 1947. M. E. Causey, who died last year, was pastor there 17 years; during that time he was also pastor at Ebenezer in Amite County.

Earlier pastors included Elmer Howell, former state Brotherhood director, now retired; and Stanley Stamps, now a missionary in Nicaragua; and Sam Waggoner.

John Paul Jones, director of missions for Mississippi Association, told me that Burnett Carraway, a layman from Oak Grove Church, Smithdale, is preaching now at Hux first and third Sundays.

The old Hux building won't last forever, but the people who go to church there are optimists. Last winter they gave away the old wood-burning stove and, for the first time, installed gas heat. The little grey church in the wildwood may have a lot of life in it yet.

Baptist Men's Day . . .

More Men Involved

Jan. 28 is Men's Day across the Southern Baptist Convention. Why we have a Men's Day and not a Women's Day is not readily understandable. It could have to do with the thought that generally women see the needs and get involved while a great mass of the men of the churches are still waiting for the opportunity to serve.

Men's Day evidently has a two-fold purpose. It is a time for honoring the men who are serving the Lord through their church work. And it would seek to interest those who are not very active in finding places of service.

On the other hand, why are not more men serving? Maybe there's not anything for them to do. In the churches where the writer has had experience most of the jobs handled by men usually went two or three jobs per man. I've been in churches where men had been members for years without ever having been asked to anything. Whether or not a new man in the congregation finds anything to do many times depends on how aggressive he is in insisting that he intends to do something. Otherwise, he may be the recipient of a glance by those of the inner circle as he enters and leaves the

church buildings. Some of our people of greatest faith may be those who are not being used. It takes a real perseverance to continue in attendance when one is being ignored.

Why does it always have to be the one with experience who has the vital committee post? And how does one go about getting experience?

Men, the pastor can't find everybody who is lost in the backwaters and draw them into the mainstream. Many adult new members, whether by letter or baptism, will move right on out the back door unless someone takes an in-

terest in them. Win Arn, the church growth expert, recognizes this and says it takes a new member inflow through a two-inch pipe to stay ahead of the loss of members through a one-inch pipe.

It has been pointed out that 20 per cent of the congregation carries 80 per cent of the financial load. The fact that few men get involved financially and that few men are actively involved in work may be related.

Men's Day should serve as a springboard toward having more men involved.

Letters To The Editor

A Greater Decline

Editor:
In the *Baptist Record* recently I read that there is a decline in baptisms, which is the most important of all our work. There was an increase in some of the departments.

This is the commission of the church to win souls to the Lord. People which have had the experience that I have had while in the ministry for 26½ years can readily understand why there is a decline.

Our churches have turned their programs into a social organization, having all types of socials, suppers, skating parties, bathing parties, and ball games. We that have studied and learned the Bible know that these things are worldly.

There is the mode of dress on the part of women who attend worship service with pants and pants-suits on, and also wear them on the streets in public. Deut. 22:5 says "This is an abomination to God."

In these days we have so many new translations of the Bible until the younger people who do not know the only true translation, which is the authorized King James, grow up without an understanding of the true word of God. I know this is true because of my own experience with them. If our churches do not do away with all this modern material and get back to the true word of God found in the King James Version there shall be still a greater decline in the Great Commission of the church.

I'm thankful to God for the privilege of being in the ministry when people in general were seeking the leadership of the Spirit to do the will of God.

I believe we have come to the time if the churches and all leaders do not begin to pray earnestly and seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit to do God's will and not man's will, the greatest decline is yet to come.

If we think back in the past of the many great men of God who did such great work for the glory of God, they didn't have any of these modern translations of the Bible. It's very disturbing to me to think that it might be possible that many people of this day are growing weaker in the knowledge of God's Holy Word. So many tell me they can understand the new translation better. I tell them that translation can't be written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (The Living Bible). God's Holy Word tells us "if we lack wisdom ask and it shall be given unto you." Rev. 22:19 says, "And if any man shall take away from the words of

the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (King James Version)

May God help us.
Rev. H. C. Breland
Lucedale

Thank you for this viewpoint. I think we need to differentiate, however, between a paraphrase, which the Living Bible is, and a translation such as the King James Version, the New American Standard Bible, the New International Version, and others. — Editor

Thanks From Frankfort

Editor:

I want the Baptists of your fine state to know how deeply appreciative the people of Frankfort, Ky. are for the tremendous work your Disaster Relief Team did in our city last month. The swollen Kentucky River inundated large numbers of homes, left over 2,000 people homeless, and a monumental task of clean up after the waters receded. During those gloomy days when the reality of it all hit so hard, the Mississippi Disaster Relief unit prepared and distributed meals to hundreds of desperate flood victims and workers, a gesture that offered hope and support in a nearly hopeless situation.

It was my pleasure to work with the men who came to man the unit, and I believe that you could not have picked a more dedicated group than those who came. Mississippi Baptists can be justly proud of these men who represented you so well. Although this was the "maiden voyage" of the unit, it was evident that hours of training and preparation had been spent preparing men and equipment for such a disaster. Even a blown engine did not reduce the effectiveness nor quell the spirit of the men. At a time when most families were home preparing for the Christmas holidays, these men made themselves available to help us. Thank you is not enough, but it is expressed deeply and sincerely.

An operation like the Disaster Relief Unit takes a great deal of money and the coordination of the energy of scores of people. It is no small task. Therefore, I want also to express Frankfort Baptists' appreciation to the Brotherhood Department of Mississippi for the work of the unit and the dedication of the task force.

One incident can illustrate what your unit meant to the Frankfort people. Frank Simmons, a teenage girl, and I were distributing hot

lunches along a street where ruined home furnishings were piled head-high in front of almost every home. It was drizzling rain and cold. We stopped at an intersection where there was a concentration of workers and victims. Many lined up to receive food and hot coffee. One little lady, about 60, tired and mud-covered came up. After receiving her food she asked, "Who's doing this?" I replied, "Mississippi Baptists and some Frankfort helpers." Then she said, "Wait just a minute." Quickly she put down both food and coffee, took my hand warmly in hers and said, "We thank you so very much. Without some encouragement along the way, it would be so easy to give up."

Gerald H. Lord, Pastor
Memorial Baptist Church
Frankfort, Ky.

Women In The Church

Editor:

I would like to submit a word of commendation and admiration to the Mrs. Johnson who is mentioned in the *Baptist Record's* article on "Church Calls Husband-Wife Team in Kentucky." I feel that her ministry is very consistent, harmonious, and progressive with the teachings of Jesus and Paul. And, also I feel that it is a great insult to the Christian religion to say that women have no place of leadership in the church.

Sure, there seem to be areas of contradiction such as I Tim. 2:11-12 and I Cor. 14:34-35, and it seems even more contradictory when we pull it out of context to support our personal views. But, Phoebe was a servant ("minister") at the church of Cenchrea (Rom. 16:1). Priscilla is treated as a fellow-worker in Christ (Rom. 16:3), and Cloe was a helper in Paul's ministry to the Corinthians. Paul's whole attitude toward women was positive and progressive, and I do not feel he intended his attitude to be stifled by the doors of the church.

If we are going to raise a stink about keeping women out of "leadership roles in the church," let us also be consistent with the other things Paul says about women. We must also require women to wear veils (which in the first century covered the whole body like a gown) to church (I Cor. 11:13), and force the women to wear long hair (I Cor. 11:15).

Paul's ideal is the equality of man and woman, not the superiority of man over woman (I Cor. 11:10-11, Gal. 3:28). There seem to be times we had to concede to the rules of his culture as

an act of love for the people's benefit. It seems to me that Paul wanted to break that barrier of "male and female" and "Jew and Greek," but he could not snap his fingers and it be done. It would take time and be a process; however, it seems that after 2,000 years that the church would catch up with his teaching on man and woman. In I Cor. 14:34-35 and I Tim. 2:11-12 it seems to me that Paul is not trying to issue a universal ultimatum that has everlasting value for the church, but that he is ministering to that particular moment which can be ministered to differently in a culture as different as ours is from his.

In I Cor. 14:34-35, Paul is dealing with the abuse and misuse of spiritual gifts at the Corinth church. His act of love consisted in offering a structure to worship which at that time contained the silence of women in churches. Paul was fighting desperately for the survival of the church, and he had to make concessions in order to achieve that.

Greg Powell
Clinton, MS

Thanks From Pinelake

A thank you to Mississippi Baptists from the Pinelake Baptist Mission of the Griffin Street Baptist Church.

On Jan. 7 the Pinelake Baptist Mission dedicated its first addition, a \$50,000 building 84' x 40'.

The treasury was down to \$300 with outstanding bills, when a \$2,500.00 check came from Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This check put the mission over the top with all the bills paid. There will be no outstanding bills. Thanks to all you Mississippi Baptists who cooperate in mission giving.

Thanks again to cooperative Mississippi Baptists and your part in the life of the Pinelake Baptist Mission of Vancleave, MS.

The mission has given through the Cooperative Program faithfully each month since organized in 1977.

Athens McNeil
Pastor Griffin St. Baptist Church
Moss Point, MS

Nashville—The PTL Network is now broadcasting "At Home with the Bible," a Southern Baptist television production, twice weekly free of charge.

A New Year . . . Each Day — New Beginnings

By Ruby K. Poole

To say that a new year is a time of new beginnings is to repeat an old cliché. Aren't most beginnings new? Each day we live, we have a new day. Today we can spend time doing those things that we put off. With this in mind, we can understand better why God has allowed us to be apart of this new year, this new day. We can try to improve our God given abilities, because we have today to begin.

You would have to know my lovely 104-year-old neighbor, Aunt Gert, as she is fondly called, to see how she still makes the best of everyday. She's certainly not idle, because that's the devil's workshop. She's not able to get about as well as she used to; but she stays busy with her hands, and her mind is quite alert.

Aunt Gert has crocheted so many afghans until she has quit trying to keep up with them. Her doctor wanted her to slow up on crocheting for awhile, but he told her she could pick out pecans since she just had to stay busy. So she had a new beginning, picking out pecans.

One of her cheerful relatives came bouncing in one day and asked, "Aunt Gert, how many have you picked out?" Her reply was, "I don't know I haven't counted them." She wasn't looking back, only to a new beginning. Now if

Aunt Gert, being 104, can do that, how much more we should thank God for new opportunities afforded us this new day.

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Hunger Fund Guidelines Set; More Giving Urged For Relief

By Ruth Fowler
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Taking a long-range look at ways to help solve world hunger and other relief problems, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has adopted a new set of guidelines for use of hunger relief funds. At the same time the board has sounded a warning that its general relief funds are almost depleted.

The new guidelines, adopted at the December meeting, call for extensive developmental efforts in the area of hunger relief, in addition to regular food distribution and other kinds of emergency aid. They spell out ways in which the board hopes to enable the world's destitute people to feed themselves through improved agriculture and increased job productivity.

"The adoption of the guidelines will expedite utilization of hunger relief funds in projects designed to deal with causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response.

Southern Baptist gifts for hunger relief have increased dramatically in the four months since the Aug. 4 World Hunger Day. Through November, giving for world hunger and relief totaled \$1,563,206 — almost double the \$799,697 given in the same 11-month period of 1977.

The increased giving was primarily designated for hunger relief. Almost all of the general relief funds, needed to respond to natural disaster, have been allocated.

Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, noted that "we are at a time when Southern Baptists need to be informed of our needs in this area. Natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes continue to take their toll, and the board needs general relief contributions if it is to continue trying to help the victims of such catastrophes," Crawley said.

The newly adopted guidelines specify that hunger relief funds will not be used in responding to natural disasters or crises except in supplying food, restoring facilities needed for food supplies or assisting with access to food supplies. General relief money is used to provide for disaster victims' medical, shelter and rebuilding needs.

But the new guidelines recognize that hunger relief contributions can do far more than provide for people's immediate needs for food. They stress the importance of improved techniques of food production, food preservation, education and training to improve wage-earning ability.

Projects should be developed for hunger prevention by identifying and treating causes, the statement points out. As an example, it suggests developing a village or area model by working with the local people to improve supply and quality of food, pure water supply, methods of sanitation and hygiene.

In urban areas, the board will seek to help break poverty cycles by providing help in obtaining work permits for

which fees must be paid and giving handicraft and vocational training in addition to feeding families and assisting children with clothing and education.

These kinds of projects have been done by the board on a small scale for the past several years, using general relief funds. New guidelines will allow for stepping up of development projects.

Although the scope of work done with hunger and relief funds broadened with the guidelines, some basic policies remained the same. Hunger and general relief funds will continue to be kept separate and used as designated. Funds designated for a particular country or project will go where the donor asks.

Missionaries will administer the funds on the field and requests for hunger relief aid will come from the field to the area secretary.

As before, every penny of hunger and relief funds will go overseas.

Missionary salaries and regular overseas operating expenses will continue to be a part of the total support task financed by Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts.

Robinhood Church Will Sponsor Bible Conference

Robinhood Church, Rankin County, six miles south of Brandon, will hold a Bible Conference Jan. 28-Feb. 2. Conferences will begin each evening at 7 p.m. Lamar Ball of Crump, Tenn. and G. A. McCoy, pastor of Union Church, Picayune, will lead the Bible study sessions.

Jimmy Yocum will direct the music for the conference. Joe Royalty is the pastor.

Retired Pastor Dies In Georgia

Howard Beck Benson, retired pastor, native of Attala County, Mississippi died suddenly at his home in Carrollton, Ga., from an apparent heart attack.

He was ordained into the ministry in 1933, during his first year at Mississippi College, and Pleasant Grove Church in Grenada County was his first pastorate.

He graduated from New Orleans Seminary in 1941, later serving on its Board of Trustees for several years. Other Mississippi pastorates included Dentville (Copiah) and Terry (Hinds) before going to First Church, Carrollton, Ga., where he was pastor for 31 years.

He led in setting up the first school for mentally retarded children in West Georgia, organized the first unit of the Extension Department of Mercer University and taught in it for 15 years, helped establish a school for black preachers and laymen under the auspices of the National Seminary in Nashville, Tenn., and taught in the school.

After retiring from the pastorate in 1975, he opened a counseling office and served as interim pastor for several churches.

He is survived by his wife, Inez Gilbert Benson, formerly of Clarksdale, and six sisters: Euna Freshour, Bolton; Clara Lucius, Drew; Leona Phillips, Ridgeland; Margie Sealy, Clinton; Carrie Lee Wiseman, Greenville; and Gertrude Simpson, Metairie, La.

He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Riley Benson.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 30 at the First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Ga. Burial will be in the Carrollton Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife, Inez Gilbert Benson, formerly of Clarksdale, and six sisters: Euna Freshour, Bolton; Clara Lucius, Drew; Leona Phillips, Ridgeland; Margie Sealy, Clinton; Carrie Lee Wiseman, Greenville; and Gertrude Simpson, Metairie, La.

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Ashland Women Take Nursing Home Residents "Shopping"

By Myrtle Crawford
WMU Director, Ashland
The December Royal Service had a project in it which we, the WMU, carried out — "A Shopping Center for a Retirement Home at Christmas Time."

We chose the "Care Inn" in Holly Springs. We gave each patient two bills of play money with which they could buy two gifts — one for themselves and one for a friend or loved one.

Tables were set up in the dining area. Gifts were bought with the money the men's Sunday School Class had contributed. We bought cologne, socks, hair nets, hose, beads, fancy pins, gloves, and also a snow scene under glass which they could keep in their rooms. All gifts were placed on the tables.

A certain number would come in to shop — some in wheel chairs, some on

crutches, but most of them came on their own power. After buying their gifts, they went to a table of ribbons and bows and beautiful shiny wrapping paper and had their gifts wrapped.

This experience was a blessing to all who participated. We challenge other WMU officers to try this project next year. You will be well paid. The women and men of the home are for a few hours transported into the land of make-believe where there are no crutches, no wheel chairs, no limited mobility, no limited money, but a feeling of "I can do something for someone — myself."

You want to weep, you want to laugh, you want to praise the Lord for these people who have caused you to look inside yourselves and resolve to be more thoughtful of others in 1978.

Ruth Akin is Mission Action Chairman, and Blondie Crawford and Willard Jordan, Committee Members.

The Marshall Messenger printed the story of this event.)

Bethesda Giving Reaches New High

Bethesda Church, Oktibbeha Association, reports that its missions giving has reached an all-time high.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions goal was \$600 this year. The actual amount given was \$1,416.12. This was a new record for Bethesda Church. Cooperative Program support has also been above the previous years, giving, according to Paul Blanchard, pastor.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 6
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DONNA MCGUYER, William Carey College senior, excited over the publication of her work in the Southern Baptist Convention's Church Training literature, shows off the material to William Clawson, professor of religion at Carey. Donna wrote the February unit in "Exploring B," the Church Training literature for six- to 11-year-olds. The unit is called "God Loves All People." Donna spent almost seven months in 1977 putting together the children's study guide, the leader's manual, and the teacher's resource kit. She is an English and communications major.

In The News

Evelyn (Mrs. Charles) Askew celebrates her 34th anniversary this month as a staff member at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. She was first employed as interim church secretary. For more than 26 years she has been church hostess. John E. Barnes, Jr. is the pastor.

Randall Perry, pastor of Bay Vista Church, Gulf Coast, and his wife Debi have a new son, **Jonathan Randall**, born Dec. 26, 1978.

Floyd A. Craig, Director of Public Relations and Development for the Christian Life Commission, SBC, has been appointed Governor's Ombudsman and Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Citizens' Affairs for the State of North Carolina.



Craig

Mike Bevell, 37, died of a heart attack in Memphis Jan. 17. He was the son-in-law of Rene Hilton of Jackson, office secretary in the Department of Church Training, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He was the husband of Rene's daughter, Patricia. Services were held in Frazier on Saturday, Jan. 20, and burial was at Senatobia.

Vivian Rasmussen has been appointed acting librarian at Clarke College, following the resignation of Mrs. Fleta Harris. Mrs. Rasmussen has served as assistant librarian at Clarke since September, 1978, and worked part-time in the library prior to that time. She lived in Greenville before moving to Newton in 1974 to enter Clarke as a student. She graduated from Clarke and received the Bachelor of Science with a Library Science major from the University of Southern Mississippi in August of 1978. Currently she is pursuing the Master's degree in Library Science from USM. Mrs. "R.", as she is called by the students, is director of the Women's Dormitory at Clarke and music director at Lawrence Church.

James L. (Jim) Edwards was ordained to the gospel ministry at Hickory Grove Church, Lauderdale Association, Sunday, Jan. 21. Edwards has been called as pastor of the Corinth Church in Kemper Association.

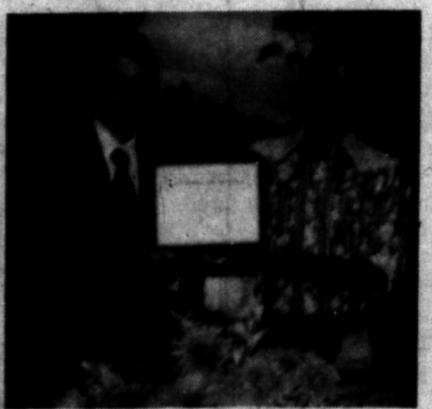
Van Winkle Church, Jackson, has awarded perfect attendance pins in Sunday School to: **Michael Hickman**, five years; **Becky Ferns** and **Jonita Lee**, six years; **D. L. Riley**, 10 years; **Luci Riley**, 11 years; **Mrs. Myrtle Robinson**, 15 years; **Donna Brown** and **Mary E. Chancellor**, 17 years; **Mrs. D. L. Riley**, 18 years; **J. E. Farmer** and **Mrs. Yvonne Bailey**, 19 years; and **Mrs. Katie V. Wilson**, 21 years.

C. B. Roberson, pastor of Savoy Church (Lauderdale) and former pastor of Northrest, Meridian, died at Riley's Hospital on Friday, Jan. 12, after suffering a heart attack a few days earlier. The funeral was Jan. 14 at 1:30 p.m. in Meridian with burial in Toombs Cemetery. Mrs. Roberson lives at 3509 33rd St., Meridian.

Estus Mason, long time pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, now retired, is serving as interim pastor of Macedonia Church, Brookhaven.

David and Gloria Glaze have a baby daughter, **Jennifer Lynn**, born Nov. 9 at Louisville, Ky. Glaze, a student at Southern Seminary, is pastor in Scottsburg, Ind. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Glaze, missionaries to Argentina. His wife's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Parkes Marler, missionaries in Guam. The Glazes may be addressed at Box 211, Scottsburg, Ind. 47170.

Dorman Laird of William Carey College, Hattiesburg, taught the January Bible Study on the book of Mark, Jan. 21-24, at Wanilla Church.



Hebron Church, Yazoo County, recently licensed **Paul Stupka**, right, to the gospel ministry. **Bill Hutto**, left, pastor, presented the license. Stupka, a first year student at Clarke College, states that he feels the Lord has called him to work with youth.

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Clear Creek, Oxford (69) | 16. Crooked Creek, Silver Creek (17) |
| 2. Highland, Laurel (46) | 17. First, Ellisville (17) |
| 3. East Fork, Smithdale (41) | 18. Bogue Chitto, Bogue Chitto (16) |
| 4. First, Picayune (37) | 19. First, Jackson (16) |
| 5. Kreole, Moss Point (31) | 20. First, Starkville (16) |
| 6. First, Greenville (30) | 21. Parkway, Jackson (15) |
| 7. Arm, Silver Creek (24) | 22. First, Purvis (13) |
| 8. Calvary, Tupelo (23) | 23. North Oxford, Oxford (11) |
| 9. First, Pascagoula (20) | 24. Drew, Drew (11) |
| 10. Belden, Belden (19) | 25. First, Louisville (11) |
| 11. Griffin Street, Moss Point (19) | 26. Priceville, Tupelo (10) |
| 12. New Prospect, Brookhaven (17) | 27. Calvary, Corinth (10) |
| 13. North McComb, McComb (17) | |

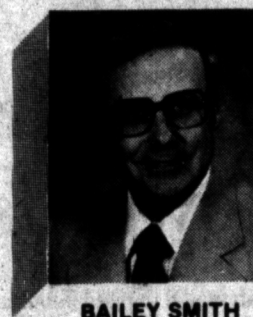
Mississippi High Twenty-Five Churches Baptist Doctrine Study Course Awards October, 1977 — September, 1978

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. First, Greenville (107) | 14. Trinity, Carthage (27) |
| 2. First, Baldwin (83) | 15. Belden, Belden (26) |
| 3. West Heights, Pontotoc (70) | 16. First, Brandon (22) |
| 4. Byram, Jackson (63) | 17. Gunnison, Gunnison (22) |
| 5. Oak Forest, Jackson (62) | 18. First, Vicksburg (21) |
| 6. Whitesand, Prentiss (53) | 19. West Ellisville, Ellisville (21) |
| 7. Harrisburg, Tupelo (50) | 20. Tinsley, Tinsley (20) |
| 8. Van Winkle, Jackson (48) | 21. Liberty, Noxapater (20) |
| 9. First, Ellisville (44) | 22. Blue Lake, Lambert (20) |
| 10. First, Magee (39) | 23. New Hebron, New Hebron (19) |
| 11. Cruger, Cruger (35) | 24. Emmanuel, Laurel (18) |
| 12. West Jackson Street, Tupelo (33) | 25. Immanuel, Cleveland (17) |
| 13. Eastview, Meridian (31) | |

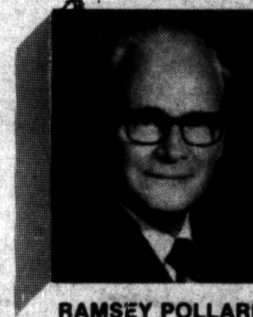
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Just For The Record



Birmingham Church (Lee) has celebrated the note burning ceremony for full payment of its educational building note, by its members in one year. Right to left are members of the Building Committee, trustees, and deacons: Murry Long, Raymond Smith, Marcus Easterling, Jimmy Jackson, Charles Hankins, John Ed Montgomery, John Dillard, Bub Epting, Troy Anglin, and Pastor Bob Holland. The pastor stated, "What is happening in this church now is evidence of God's work and will be carried out. There is a precious spirit of warmth and excitement in the church fellowship."



NEW SARDIS CHURCH in Smith County set a 1978 Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$300. RA boys of the church alone raised \$304 for the offering, so the church far exceeded its goal. The RAs went on a five-mile hike; their family and friends pledged whatever they wished for each mile walked. Bottom row, left to right, Shad Harvey, Matt Wiltshire. Middle row: Ricky Meadows, Terry Smith, Tim Harrison, Paul Smith, and Duran Runnels. Top row (leaders): Henry Wiltshire, Greg Smith, pastor, and Gaynell Meadows.

Ashland Is \$1184.76 Over Goal

Ashland Church, Ashland, has gone over its goal on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by the amount of \$1184.76.

The goal, set for \$2200.00, was sur-

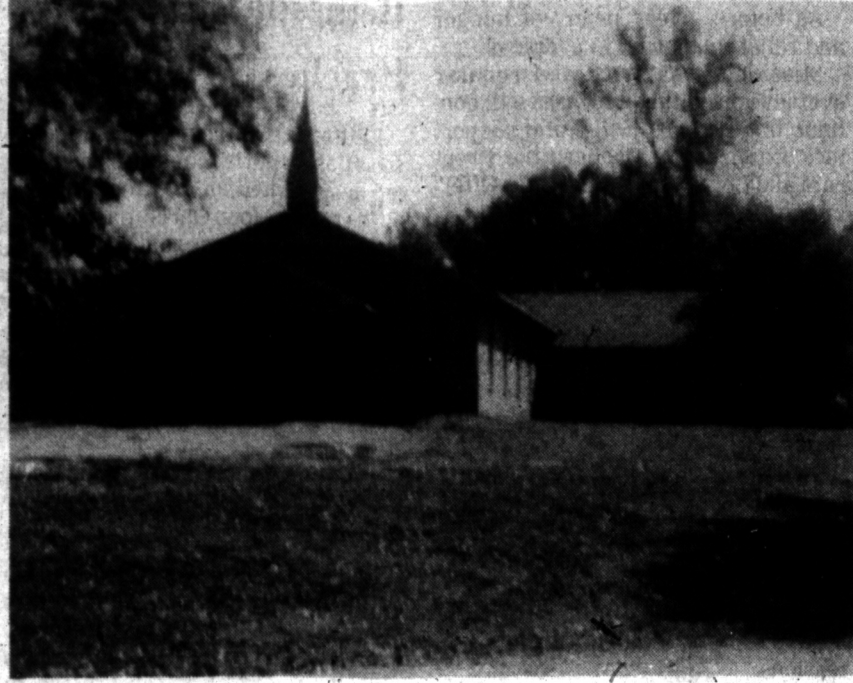
passed, and the final total was \$3386.76.

The foreign missions program in Royal Service for December was written by Stewart Calvert, wife of a former pastor at Ashland.

Ann Harrison is Mission Support Chairman of Ashland WMU. Carolyn Daniels is president and Myrtle Crawford, director. Roy Hamilton is pastor.



PONTOTOC COUNTY ASSOCIATION set a new record in attendance at M Night, with 582 present. A highlight in the program was the crowning of the M Night Queen, Lisa Cornelius of Cairo Church. In the picture with the queen are (l to r) A. B. Godfrey, associational Church Training director, Larry Maxey, Cairo pastor, and Wayne McLaughlin, Cairo Church Training director. Wade Allen is director of missions. (Photo by Larry Ramsey).



Hebron Church, Yazoo County, will have a service Sunday, Jan. 28, to burn the note on the new sanctuary. Bill Hutto, pastor, said, "The Lord blessed

the church and we were able to pay for the new church building in a little over three years." Hutto has been pastor at Hebron for four years.

New Hope Exceeds Goal

The New Hope Church, Lawrence County, set a goal of \$800 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. This goal was exceeded by \$232.60 making a total of \$1,032.60 given through this special offering for 1978.

Drew D. Blanton is pastor.

First, Long Beach, will have a youth retreat Jan. 26-27. The church exceeded its Lottie Moon goal of \$3,500.

Pass Road Church, Gulf Coast, has begun a radio ministry over WVM, 10:30-14 on Sunday mornings.

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport has bought additional property for \$25,000. Through savings and special efforts the members are paying cash.

Mount Olive Has 'Missions Night Out'

Mount Olive Church, Carroll County, has exceeded its \$1000 goal for the second year. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering total this year is \$1009.68.

Mount Olive members emphasized mission education in numerous activities during December. One week included a prayer luncheon, a Wednesday night prayer service where the Christmas tree was decorated with Lottie Moon Christmas offerings, a Missions Night Out, and a prayer meeting on Saturday for Senior Citizens followed by a lunch of Brunswick stew.

Rex and Sherry Holt, missionaries on furlough from Lome, West Africa, gave a program with slides at the Missions Night Out, which was held at a local restaurant. Carlis Braswell is pastor.

First Church, Gulfport has established a missions committee that is functioning in connection with new mission work on Popp's Ferry.

Revival Dates

Richland Church (Rankin): Jan. 28-Feb. 4; Larry Taylor, of San Antonio, Texas, full-time evangelist, preaching; Mike Smith, leading the music; Paul B. Williamson, Jr., pastor; services at 7:30 evenings and 11 Sunday morning. (Taylor has spoken in over 400 high schools and junior high schools on the dangers of drug abuse. Over 300,000 teenagers have heard these messages.)

Bay Vista (Gulf Coast): Feb. 23-25; Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Randall Perry, pastor.

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has urged Italian Catholic doctors to resist public pressures and refuse to perform an abortion. When Italy's abortion law went into effect on June 6, it was stipulated that doctors who had moral objections to the operation were to register as conscientious objectors. The law, one of the most liberal on the continent, allows any woman over 18 to have an abortion, virtually on demand, within the first 90 days of pregnancy.

Devotional

Having And Giving

By Rusty Griffin, Consultant, Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

And from everyone who has been given much, much also shall be required, and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more (Luke 12:48-b, New American Standard Bible).

This scripture passage has always been a meaningful one to me, especially during this time of the year as I look back on the blessings of the last year and begin to set goals for the coming year. Each of us has much to be grateful for because we have been blessed so richly with gifts of loved ones, Christian fellowship and eternal life. It is out of love and gratitude for these blessings that we are encouraged to serve the Giver of these gifts with a deeper and more complete commitment.

Several days ago in an unusual setting, this scripture again came to my mind. I was standing outside the Bellepoint Baptist Church on Kentucky Avenue in Frankfort, Kentucky. The street, the lawn and the church walls were all covered with a muddy silt deposited there by several days of flooding. I was there as a part of the Disaster Relief Task Force sent by Mississippi Baptists to aid the flood victims. More than once tears came to my eyes as I watched families pile all of their belongings beside the street to be picked up as trash. The water had ruined clothing, carpets, furniture and yet unopened Christmas gifts.

In the midst of this tragedy with all of its sadness, a feeling of pride began to swell inside of me... proud because I was a Mississippi Baptist! We were a group of people to whom God had given much... and now in this time of real need, Mississippi Baptists were giving of themselves to help others. As one of the flood victims had her first hot meal in several days, she commented, "I don't know why you've come, but I sure am glad!" I knew why we had come and I was glad, too.

May 1979 be a year that, as Mississippi Baptists, we continue to expand our ministry in service to our Master... and equally as important, as individual Christians may we commit all that we have to the Lord's service. We have been given much, and of us much can be given to glorify our Lord and Savior.



Griffin

Life and Work Lesson

How Can A Just God Justify Sinners?

By Joe N. McKeever, First, Columbus

Romans 3:21-31

After a sermon that went over the heads of the congregation a deacon walked up to the pastor and said, "Preacher, the Lord said, 'Feed my sheep' — not my giraffes!"

The pastor's response was "If that sermon was over your head, maybe you need to raise your head!"

We get the feeling in reading Romans that Paul is showing us how deep he can get when he sets his mind to it.

Yet, it's not profundity for the sake of impressing his readers. This is pow-

erful stuff Paul is laying on us.

Look at the question again: How can a just God justify sinners?

The problem is with the just-ness (holiness) of God and the iniquity of man. Would a holy God touch dirty man?

The Greeks would have solved the problem by saying that God didn't, period. Instead, a "being" that He created who was less than God and thus could afford to "handle" sin, was the justifier.

Such a "solution" comes from an unwillingness to involve the Creator in

His creation. We Christians declare determinedly that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14). God has been here, has done all necessary for our salvation, and today is in the redeeming business.

Okay, get your Bibles and let's walk through Romans 3:21-31. First, let's define justification. It's a term from the legal courtroom. You are guilty and without an excuse. But God declares you innocent — and makes you so. That's the beauty of it.

Wow! How can He do that? As our friend Harper Shannon points out, the

question Paul raises is never, how can a just God allow anyone to go to hell. It's just the opposite — how can a just God let anyone go to heaven? How can He pardon sin? Let's find the answer.

3:21 We see God's righteousness in the Old Testament Scriptures (the Law and the Prophets). So this is not a new discovery.

3:22 We can have God's righteousness by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's God's one provision for Jews and non-Jews alike. And faith the single requirement for obtaining that righteousness.



Uniform Lesson

The Stewardship Of Life And Work

By Larry Kennedy, First, Laurel

Nehemiah 2:11-18

One day a fisherman was sitting on the pier with a bucket and a ten inch ruler. A stranger who was watching the fisherman noticed that the old sea veteran was constantly measuring the fish that he caught. His first catch was a fish six inches long which he carefully placed into his bucket. The second fish that he caught was nine inches in length, and it was gently placed into the bucket. The third fish caught by the fisherman was twelve inches in length, and the old fisherman quickly threw it back into the water.

The stranger was amazed that the fisherman was constantly throwing the large fish back into the ocean. Unable to understand the reasoning behind this process, the stranger walked over to the fisherman and asked, "Sir, why do you keep the small fish and throw the large ones away?"

The response of the fisherman was a classic: "Because my frying pan is only ten inches."

It is true that some people have a very small vision. Even among God's people there are those who seemed to be limited in their thinking; however, the Scripture lesson reminds us that God is able to call men who believe that with God's help man is able to do the impossible. Nehemiah was such a man.

Nehemiah was a trusted Jewish servant of the Persian king, Artaxerxes. As he carried out his duties at the royal court in the year 445 B.C., Nehemiah received word that the city of Jerusalem was still in ruins and that very little had been done to restore the city to its former position. Although some of the Jewish brethren had been allowed to return to the city at least a hundred years prior to Nehemiah's ministry (the first Jews probably returned to Jerusalem in 536 B.C. ending their Babylonian captivity), a spirit of complacency had settled over the ancient city.

Through a combination of internal and external factors, the walls and the gates of Jerusalem were still in ruins; however, Nehemiah was determined that the city would be rebuilt as a haven for God's people.

I. Nehemiah's Sacrifice

Leaving the palace of the Persian king, Nehemiah "came to Jerusalem and was there three days" (Neh. 2:11). At the royal palace Nehemiah had been at ease. He had been in the inner circle of the king's court with numerous servants to respond to his very wish. He had been working eight hours a day with double pay for his overtime. He had rubbed shoulders with the royalty of the world and had whispered advice in the king's ear. However, he exchanged it all for a job that offered a

twenty hour work day, no pay, and

numerous critics.

II. Nehemiah's Survey

Upon arriving in Jerusalem the Bible says of Nehemiah that he "went up at night and inspected the wall... and the officials did not know where (he) had gone" (Neh. 2:15-16). Nehemiah kept his inspection of the city a secret for several reasons.

First, he knew that before a building program could be initiated, he must have some definite plans. The secret survey helped him to determine his goals.

Second, Nehemiah's jealous critics would have immediately undermined his operation had they known what he was doing.

Third, Jerusalem was full of impossibility thinkers who would have killed the rebuilding program had they known about it. Nehemiah was not interested in hearing the standard Jewish hymn "It Can't be Done."

III. Nehemiah's Speech

In the speech Nehemiah reminded his people that the broken walls meant that they were in a "bad situation" (Neh. 2:17). There could be no security until the walls were replaced. He then appealed to their national pride by reminding them that if they would rebuild the walls they would "no longer be a reproach." His final argument that the job could be accomplished was

God's blessing expressed through the permission of the Persian king to rebuild.

IV. Nehemiah's Servants

Upon hearing Nehemiah's challenge, the people responded and said, "Let us arise and build" (Neh. 2:18). It is amazing how people will respond to a challenge. The citizens of Jerusalem wanted to rebuild, but they needed a man of vision who would remind them that the rebuilding could be accomplished.

Patty Wilson was 13 years old when she discovered she was an epileptic. Through the encouragement of her father, she decided to become a long distance runner. For a starter, she decided to run from Los Angeles to San Francisco (400 miles). She trained for a year and made the historic run. Unwilling to be satisfied with that accomplishment, she ran from Los Angeles to Portland, Oregon (1300 miles). Patty says that she runs with the hope that she will inspire other handicapped people to overcome their problems.

Nehemiah, Patty Wilson, and others like them remind us that only the courageous ever accomplish anything in life. God has not promised us a rose garden, but he has promised us his presence as we accept his challenge to be God's people.

